

## **UN-Habitat: United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

President: José Enrique Gómez Salazar  
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"Courage is the resistance to fear, the mastery of fear, not the absence of fear."  
– Mark Twain

Dear delegates,

It is an honor to welcome you to TOLMUN 2024, a particularly significant model as we celebrate its 30th anniversary, which for three decades has encouraged thousands of students to use their full potential for the well-being of the world in which we live. On behalf of the Tecnológico de Monterrey and the Organizing Committee, we extend our greetings and our gratitude for being part of this important history.

For 30 years, TOLMUN has been a place where bold and committed young people become the leaders of tomorrow to dialogue, debate, and above all, to transform the world. This model has witnessed countless ideas that have challenged the status quo, brave voices that have raised their hands in favor of justice, and the construction of a better future.

This year, more than ever, we find ourselves at a moment where you, the delegates, have the opportunity to continue the story. It is not just about representing different nations, but about expressing your way of thinking and coming together as one to solve problems.

The heart of this model is you, the delegates, who motivate us year after year with your enthusiasm, talent and commitment that allows you to continue writing the history of TOLMUN and without realizing it you are already doing something that many others do not do; raising your voice and facing the challenges of the world.

Never stop participating, debating, and above all, daring. You are already changing the world. Let's celebrate 30 years of doing it together!

On behalf of the entire organizing committee, thank you very much for your participation in TOLMUN 2024, good luck delegates, we wish you much success.

Sincerely:

Valeria Tapia Morales  
Secretaria General

Maria Fernanda Zenil Cruz  
Subsecretaria General



## WELCOME LETTER TO DELEGATES

Esteemed delegates,

It is an honor and a privilege to extend the warmest welcome to TOLMUN 2024. On behalf of Tecnológico de Monterrey and the Organizing Committee, we greet you and express our gratitude for being part of our Model United Nations 2024.

TOLMUN has always been a unique opportunity for you, the leaders of tomorrow, to explore

and address the most important and compelling global challenges of our time. Over the next few days, you will have the chance to represent different nations and play a crucial role in seeking solutions to complex international problems, harnessing the power of research and debate.

There is no doubt that the most significant aspect of a model is all of you, the delegates.

Your

enthusiasm for participation fosters a diplomatic and competitive environment. The best delegates are those who are committed to their goals, who advocate for their positions, and, above all, those who drive forward the ideas that will contribute to building a better world.

We

understand that debating and defending a position can be demanding, but your effort and willingness to do so make a difference.

The primary objective is for you to enrich yourselves with an experience that broadens your perspective on the world we live in. As delegates, you will develop diplomatic skills, make connections, and foster that much-needed spirit of global awareness in today's world. This experience will shape you as individuals and contribute to your academic and, more importantly, personal development. Although the challenges, stress, and debates may be demanding, we assure you that in the end, it will all be rewarding.

Never cease to participate, debate, listen, and, above all, learn.

On behalf of the entire organizing committee, thank you very much for your valuable participation in TOLMUN 2024. Good luck, delegates, and we wish you great success



## ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was mandated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1978 to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities.

UN-Habitat aims to enable cities to address many of the challenges facing our world. As a center of excellence and innovation, it helps countries and cities take advantage of the opportunities that urbanization offers. The high-impact projects that UN-Habitat provides combine world-class expertise and local knowledge, offering achievable, customizable, and scalable solutions to the most difficult urbanization problems. Additionally, it ensures that cities become inclusive and affordable engines of economic growth, social development, and environmental change by working with governments and local partners.

UN-Habitat works in more than 90 countries to promote transformative changes in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action.

With a staff of 400 officials and nearly 2,000 consultants on temporary projects, UN-Habitat manages all its work from its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, and through four regional offices in Latin America and the Caribbean (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil); Asia and the Pacific (Fukuoka, Japan); Arab States (Cairo, Egypt); and Africa, in Nairobi.

UN-Habitat has carried out projects in Syria based on city profile findings. In 2014, a deeper assessment of housing needs was conducted at the neighborhood level in Al Tal, Ma'raba, and Ashrafiyat Sahnaya in rural Damascus, as well as in the Salah Ad-Deen neighborhood in Aleppo. Based on the assessment in Aleppo, UN-Habitat piloted a housing support program for host families of internally displaced persons, addressing priority needs, including minor repairs, rental assistance, and provision of basic household equipment.

The accountability framework of this organization aims to foster a strong culture of accountability throughout the Organization. Each member of UN-Habitat staff is expected to carry out their responsibilities and functions in accordance with the principles established in this framework:

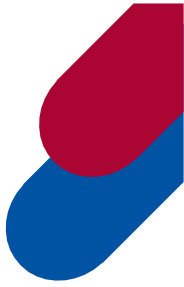
- Ethics
- Accountability
- Impartiality
- Independence
- Loyalty
- Respect for Human Rights
- Integrity



**References:**

*ONU-Habitat.*(s. f.). *Home.* <https://onuhabitat.org.mx/index.php/home>

*About us | UN-Habitat.* (s. f.). <https://unhabitat.org/about-us>



## TOPIC A :

### **Gentrification and Displacement: Balances Between Urban Development and Social Equity**

Gentrification is a process of restructuring social relations in a given space. It refers to the phenomenon where different sectors of the population with greater economical means take over urban spaces that possess certain qualities, such as green areas, good location, amenities, infrastructure, and cultural zones that are highly sought after by real estate capital. Clear examples of this phenomenon include the brown stoning of New York, the renewal of Prenzlauer Berg in Berlin, and the emergence of lofts around the world.

Gentrification impacts vulnerable inhabitants of an urban area that has been revalued by higher-income consumers. These areas were often old and deteriorated, yet significant capital appreciates the architecture and urban heritage of the past, leading to the appropriation of these spaces. Another cause of the gentrification process is tourism, where tourists with greater economical means overshadow the daily dynamics of the working class, making tourist areas often the most highly gentrified.

This process brings with it various disadvantages, such as:

- **Displacement:**

Property costs and the overall cost of living increase. As a result, many residents who have lived in a place their entire lives, especially those with less financial stability, find it difficult to stay in that area and are forced to leave.

- **Cultural Suppression:**

The inhabitants of an area have strong ties to the history and culture (distinctive, spiritual, material, and emotional traits) that gentrification can completely alter. ●

- **Conflict:**

Newcomers to an area may experience conflicts with long-time residents, especially when there is a lack of communication. This can lead to feelings of resentment and anger, damaging the social cohesion of the area.

- **Unfair Urban Distribution:**

While gentrification leads to better economics and infrastructure, low-income individuals do not have access to the benefits of gentrification.

### Key Questions:

1. What actions have been taken in your district regarding gentrification?
2. How does gentrification relate to, support, or affect the economy in your district?
3. Can gentrification be prevented in your district? If it already is: How could it be



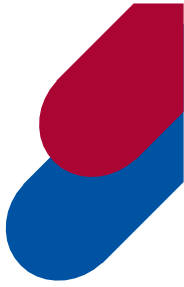


implemented in other districts?

4. How is your district coping with gentrification? Are you in favor or against it, considering factors like inequality, economic development, tourism, etc.? 5. How does gentrification in your district affect both long-time and new residents of an area?

### References:

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## TOPIC B:

### **Reduce spatial inequality and poverty in communities along the urban-rural continuum.**

Urban-Rural linkages touch on a broad variety of thematic areas ranging from urban and territorial planning, enabling spatial flows of people, products, services and information to fostering food security systems as well as mobility and migration, reducing the environmental impact in urban-rural convergences, developing legislation and governance structures and promoting inclusive financial investments among others. Fostering Partnerships – between urban and rural actors and areas at the local level are crucial for a transformative agenda. But also, global partnerships for an integrated territorial development is crucial for transforming towards sustainable and resilient societies. Through shared principles, these levels of progress can be achieved.

#### Challenges of Spatial Inequality

- **Resource Allocation:** Urban areas often receive more investment in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and other services, leading to better living standards. Rural areas may suffer from underinvestment, resulting in limited access to essential services.
- **Economic Opportunities:** Employment and income-generating opportunities are usually more abundant in urban areas, while rural areas might rely heavily on agriculture and have fewer diverse economic activities.
- **Access to Services:** Healthcare, education, transportation, and communication services are generally more accessible in urban areas, leading to disparities in quality of life between urban and rural populations.

By reducing the Spatial Inequality in the urban rural areas can bring us a lot of benefits, economy growth, social cohesion, sustainable development, but for reducing this the develop of strategies to reduce the Spatial Inequality and Poverty are necessary, here are some strategies that may improve the problem:

- Investing in Infrastructure and Services
- Promoting Economic Diversification
- Enhancing Connectivity and Mobility
- Empowering Local Communities

#### Key questions:

1. What are the primary factors contributing to spatial inequality and poverty along the urban-rural continuum in our region?







2. How do access to services, infrastructure, and economic opportunities differ between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas?
3. What strategies can be implemented to diversify economic activities in rural areas and reduce dependence on agriculture?
4. How can the success of integrated urban-rural planning initiatives be evaluated?

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NOTA: Busca en el siguiente drive el comité al que perteneces y sube tu hoja de posición ahí.

Fecha límite 1ro de Octubre.

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